

MARIO SCHIFANO: THE NEW IMAGINARY. 1960-1990

Gallerie d'Italia - Naples, Intesa Sanpaolo Museum

2 June - 29 October 2023

Curated by Luca Massimo Barbero

PRESS IMAGES

Naples, 1 June 2023 – Intesa Sanpaolo is pleased to present *Mario Schifano: il nuovo immaginario. 1960-1990 [The new imaginary. 1960-1990]*, a survey exhibition dedicated to one of the most important 20th-century Italian artists. The exhibition will be on view at the Gallerie d'Italia in Naples, from 2 June to 29 October 2023.

Curated by Luca Massimo Barbero, the exhibition presents more than 50 works from the artist's production from the 1960s to the 1990s. Many of the works in the exhibition form part of the collection of Intesa Sanpaolo, while others are loans from important cultural institutions, such as the Museo del Novecento in Milan, and national and international art galleries and private collections, selected in collaboration with the Mario Schifano Archive.

Mario Schifano began his career in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Initially, his research led him to focus on the production of dense, monochromatic paintings, which also surprisingly benefitted from his employment as a restorer in the museum of Etruscan art and archaeological artefacts, where his father had convinced him to work. The dense black of the ancient, Etruscan vases inspired the young artist to such an extent that all of his most significant paintings of the period are influenced - in the framing, the perspective, details - by those antiquities. The exhibition itinerary at the Gallerie d'Italia in Naples starts from these extremely rare **monochrome works** from Schifano's early period, some of which, once included in

the Luigi and Peppino Agrati Collection, now form part of the Intesa Sanpaolo Group's collection. This exhibition marks the first time that these early monochromes are brought together, allowing visitors to encounter the work *Grande pittura* (1963) and other iconic paintings dedicated to Esso, Coca Cola and various urban brands that reveal the artist's interest in **signs and labels** in the early 1960's.

The exhibition aims to present all the masterpieces by Schifano that address the most central and relevant themes of his artistic research and practice, this way unfolding, room by room, as an in-depth analysis of the artist's production. The presentation offers an unprecedented opportunity to experience the famous paintings dedicated to **Italian landscapes** such as *Ultimo Autunno* (1964), a fundamental work by Schifano, as well as *Futurismo Rivisitato*, a small format work, both of which form part of the Intesa Sanpaolo Collection, and are dedicated to the artist's masters, those who have inspired him the most in his studies on the movement of the human figure: Giacomo Balla, Gino Severini and Carlo Carrà.

At the end of the first section of the exhibition, visitors will encounter some of the major works of the mature period, such as *Compagni Compagni* and *Tableau peint pour raconter l'inquietude amoureuse de Susi*. These works will open the path to a section devoted entirely to *Paesaggi TV* (literally, TV Landscapes).

For the first time, a series of works from the 1970s titled *Paesaggi TV* is exhibited and made accessible to the general public: creations that, by revisiting painting through the use of the camera and the emulsion of colours, re-propose news, art and advertising events on canvas. A series of images is captured by the artist directly from the cathode ray tube, and impressed on the canvas' surface. The result is a series of surreal television screens, most of which portray the phantasmic versions

of his masters' - Giorgio De Chirico, Leonardo Da Vinci and Pablo Picasso - most famous paintings.

On the ground floor, within Gallerie d'Italia's Salone Toledo, the large-scale work *Festa Cinese* (1968), more than seven metres across, is showcased alongside a constellation of works from the last three decades of Mario Schifano's artistic production, before his death in 1998. Among **the extra large-format paintings** that are part of the exhibition, visitors will encounter emblematic works such as *Gaston a cavallo* (1986), two of the important *Ninfee e Acerbo*, and three large, more contemporary canvases manifesting Mario Schifano's interest in the screen, mass media and the contemporary production of images. These last works from the 1990s are intentionally displayed here to give emphasis on their monumentality. These were produced after a particular event occurred in the artist's life, and traces of this are decipherable in some fragments of this series of paintings, such as in the work *Per esempio*, which is part of the exhibition. These challenging works crystallise Mario Schifano's fertile creativity in his mature period. Unsurprisingly, critics have described these colossal yet festive series of works as "extraordinary canvases of international contemporary art".

The exhibition **catalogue** is produced by **Edizioni Gallerie d'Italia | Skira**.

Along with Gallerie d'Italia in Milan, Turin and Vicenza, Gallerie d'Italia in Naples is part of Intesa Sanpaolo's museum project, led by Michele Coppola, Executive Director of Art, Culture and Historical Heritage at the Bank.

PRESS INFORMATION

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VISITORS INFORMATION

Address: Gallerie d'Italia – Napoli | Via Toledo, 177 Napoli

Opening hours: from Tuesday to Friday: from 10:00 to 19:00; Saturday and Sunday: from 10:00 to 20:00. Closed on Mondays. Last entrance: one hour before the closing time.*

Tickets: full 7€, reduced 4€, free entry for Gallerie d'Italia members, students, people under 18s and Intesa Sanpaolo Group customers.

Information and bookings: www.gallerieditalia.com - milano@gallerieditalia.com - Free toll number 800.167619

***Special opening:** Friday, 2 June 2023

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Intesa Sanpaolo is Italy's leading banking group serving families, businesses and the real economy with a significant international presence. Intesa Sanpaolo's distinctive business model makes it a European leader in Wealth Management, Protection & Advisory, highly focused on digital and fintech. An efficient and resilient Bank, it benefits from its wholly owned product factories in asset management and insurance. The Group's strong ESG commitment includes providing €115 billion in impact lending by 2025 to communities and for the green transition, and €500 million in contributions to support people most in need, positioning Intesa Sanpaolo as a world leader in terms of social impact. Intesa Sanpaolo is committed to Net Zero by 2030 for its own emissions and by 2050 for its loan and investment portfolios. An engaged patron of Italian culture, Intesa Sanpaolo has

created its own network of museums, the Gallerie d'Italia, to present the bank's artistic heritage and to offer a venue for prestigious cultural projects.

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